

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

**1. A packing method for use in a packing apparatus,
comprising:**

**band-inserting step of wrapping a band around an article to be
packed and inserting a distal end of the band into a band insertion
port;**

**a band-holding step of holding the distal end of the band, which
has been inserted into the band insertion port;**

**a band-tightening step of drawing back the band, thereby
tightening the band around the article, with a desired force;**

**a band-sealing step of cutting the band, forming a proximal
end, and adhering the distal end and the proximal end to each other;**

**a band-feeding step of feeding the band from a band reel for a
prescribed distance;**

**wherein the distal end of the band remains held after the band-
holding step, the band-tightening step is performed by operating a
manual tightening switch, thereby driving a drive motor and hence
rotating a drive roller under manual control, and the band-sealing
step and the band-feeding step are automatically and sequentially
performed after a manual-tightening end signal is generated to
inform that the band-tightening step has been completed.**

**2. The packing method according to claim 1, wherein the band
is held in the band-holding step by driving a sealing motor, and it is
possible to drive the drive motor by operating the manual tightening
switch in the band-feeding step, only after the sealing motor is
driven to hold the band.**

3. The packing method according to claim 1, wherein the band-inserting step is manually performed by wrapping the band fed in the band-feeding step around the article, and inserting the distal end of the band into the band insertion port and the band-holding step is automatically performed by holding the distal end of the band, which has been inserted into the band insertion port.

4. The packing method according to claim 3, wherein the band-inserting step and the band-holding step are automatically and sequentially performed in the order mentioned, after the band-sealing step and the band-feeding step are sequentially performed.

5. The packing method according to claim 2, wherein the band-inserting step is manually performed by wrapping the band fed in the band-feeding step around the article, and inserting the distal end of the band into the band insertion port and the band-holding step is automatically performed by holding the distal end of the band, which has been inserted into the band insertion port.